

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for managing schemas, comprising:
2 registering a schema and one or more associated schema documents;
3 automatically generating a schema information document based on the schema
4 and the one or more associated schema documents; and
5 processing a request to be performed on at least one of the schema, an associated
6 schema document, and the schema information document.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 storing an identifier for the schema, wherein the identifier includes a three-part
3 composite key and an optional unique name; and
4 storing identifiers for each of the one or more associated schema documents,
5 wherein each identifier includes a three-part composite key.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein at least one part of the three-part
2 composite key includes a version identifier.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the schema and the one or more schema
2 documents are stored and further comprising:
3 when a copy of the schema document has already been stored, discarding the
4 schema document; and
5 when a portion of the three-part composite key of the schema document to be
6 stored matches a three-part composite key of a schema document that has already been
7 stored, storing the schema document with a version identifier.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the request comprises deregistering the
2 schema.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the request comprises lookup of a schema
2 and further comprising:
3 when there is one matching schema, returning the matching schema;
4 when there are multiple matching schemas, applying a filter to identify one
5 matching schema; and
6 when there is no matching schema, applying at least one of a user-defined
7 technique and a system defined technique to find a matching schema.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the request comprises replacement of at
2 least one of the schema and one of the schema documents and further comprising:
3 replacing the schema if a new schema is backward compatible; and
4 replacing one of the schema documents if a new schema document is backward
5 compatible.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the request comprises access of at least
2 one of the schema and one of the schema documents and wherein access is granted based
3 on an access privilege associated with a user and the schema.

1 9. An article of manufacture including program logic for managing schemas,
2 wherein the program logic causes operations to be performed, the operations comprising:
3 registering a schema and one or more associated schema documents;
4 automatically generating a schema information document based on the schema
5 and the one or more associated schema documents; and
6 processing a request to be performed on at least one of the schema, an associated
7 schema document, and the schema information document.

1 10. The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein the operations further
2 comprise:
3 storing an identifier for the schema, wherein the identifier includes a three-part
4 composite key and an optional unique name; and
5 storing identifiers for each of the one or more associated schema documents,
6 wherein each identifier includes a three-part composite key.

1 11. The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein at least one part of the
2 three-part composite key includes a version identifier.

1 12. The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein the schema and the one or
2 more schema documents are stored and wherein the operations further comprise:
3 when a copy of the schema document has already been stored, discarding the
4 schema document; and
5 when a portion of the three-part composite key of the schema document to be
6 stored matches a three-part composite key of a schema document that has already been
7 stored, storing the schema document with a version identifier.

1 13. The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein the request comprises
2 deregistering the schema.

1 14. The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein the request comprises
2 lookup of a schema and wherein the operations further comprise:
3 when there is one matching schema, returning the matching schema;
4 when there are multiple matching schemas, applying a filter to identify one
5 matching schema; and

6 when there is no matching schema, applying at least one of a user-defined
7 technique and a system defined technique to find a matching schema.

1 15. The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein the request comprises
2 replacement of at least one of the schema and one of the schema documents and wherein
3 the operations further comprise:

4 replacing the schema if a new schema is backward compatible; and
5 replacing one of the schema documents if a new schema document is backward
6 compatible.

1 16. The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein the request comprises
2 access of at least one of the schema and one of the schema documents and wherein access
3 is granted based on an access privilege associated with a user and the schema.

1 17. A system for managing schemas, comprising:
2 means for registering a schema and one or more associated schema documents;
3 means for automatically generating a schema information document based on the
4 schema and the one or more associated schema documents; and
5 means for processing a request to be performed on at least one of the schema, an
6 associated schema document, and the schema information document.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the schema and the one or more schema
2 documents are stored and further comprising:
3 means for, when a copy of the schema document has already been stored,
4 discarding the schema document; and
5 means for, when a portion of the three-part composite key of the schema
6 document to be stored matches a three-part composite key of a schema document that has
7 already been stored, storing the schema document with a version identifier.

1 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the request comprises one of
2 deregistering the schema, lookup of a schema, and replacement of at least one of the
3 schema and one of the schema documents.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the request comprises access of at least
2 one of the schema and one of the schema documents and wherein access is granted based
3 on an access privilege associated with a user and the schema.